

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method of determining the severity of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) in a patient which comprises measuring the concentration of soluble E-cadherin (sE-cadherin) in a sample of the patient's urine or blood serum and determining the extent of severity by reference to a correlation graph which correlates Forced Expiratory Volume in the first second of expiration (FEV1) with ~~soluble E-cadherin~~ sE-cadherin concentration.
2. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method of according to claim 1, wherein said measuring step comprises measuring the concentration of ~~soluble E-cadherin~~ sE-cadherin in a sample of the patient's blood serum.
3. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein said measuring step comprises measuring the concentration of ~~soluble E-cadherin~~ sE-cadherin in a sample of the patient's urine.
4. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said measuring step comprises measuring the concentration of ~~soluble E-cadherin~~ sE-cadherin in a sample of the patient's blood serum and urine.
5. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a patient suffering from [[COPD]]Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) which comprises determining the extent of the disease by identifying the levels of soluble E-cadherin (sE-cadherin) in a sample of the patient's blood serum ~~and/or or~~ urine followed by administration of a compound which ameliorates the symptoms of the disease.

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2/ 6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 5, wherein said identifying step comprises identifying the concentration of ~~soluble E-cadherin~~ sE-cadherin in a sample of the patient's blood serum.

3/ 7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 5, wherein said identifying step comprises identifying the concentration of ~~soluble E-cadherin~~ sE-cadherin in a sample of the patient's urine.

4/ 8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 5, wherein said identifying step comprises identifying the levels of ~~soluble E-cadherin~~ sE-cadherin in a sample of the patient's blood serum and urine.

b2 9. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method of determining the responsiveness of a patient with ~~[[COPD]]~~ Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) to therapy which comprises monitoring the concentration of soluble E-cadherin (sE-cadherin) in a sample of the patient's blood serum ~~and/or or~~ urine with time and determining the rate of change of extent of progression of the disease by reference to a correlation graph which correlates ~~[[FEV1]]~~ Forced Expiratory Volume in the first second of expiration (FEV1) with ~~soluble E-cadherin~~ sE-cadherin concentration.

10. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein said monitoring step comprises monitoring the concentration of ~~soluble E-cadherin~~ sE-cadherin in a sample of the patient's urine.

11. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein said monitoring step comprises monitoring the concentration of ~~soluble E-cadherin~~ sE-cadherin in a sample of the patient's blood serum.

12. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein said monitoring step comprises monitoring the concentration of ~~soluble E-cadherin~~ sE-cadherin in samples of the patient's urine and blood serum with time.

13. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A product for the prognosis of [[COPD]]Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease severity in a patient which comprises means to report the concentration of soluble E-cadherin (sE-cadherin) in a sample of blood serum ~~and/or or~~ a sample of urine taken from the patient and a correlation graph which correlates [[FEV1]]Forced Expiratory Volume in the first second of expiration (FEV1) with ~~soluble E-cadherin~~ sE-cadherin concentration.

14. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A product according to claim 13, wherein said means to report the concentration of ~~soluble E-cadherin~~ sE-cadherin comprises and anti-soluble E-cadherin antibody.

15. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the correlation graph correlates [[FEV1]]Forced Expiratory Volume in the first second of expiration (FEV1) (as a percentage of the predicted value) with ~~soluble E-cadherin~~ sE-cadherin concentration.

16. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2 wherein the correlation graph correlates FEV1 (as a percentage of the predicted value) with ~~soluble E-cadherin~~ sE-cadherin concentration.

17. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3 wherein the correlation graph correlates FEV1 (as a percentage of the predicted value) with ~~soluble E-cadherin~~ sE-cadherin concentration.

18. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method according to claim 4 wherein the correlation graph correlates FEV1 (as a percentage of the predicted value) with ~~soluble E-cadherin~~ sE-cadherin concentration.

19. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 5 wherein the correlation graph correlates [[FEV1]]Forced Expiratory Volume in the first second of expiration (FEV1) (as a percentage of the predicted value) with ~~soluble E-cadherin~~ sE-cadherin concentration.

~~20.~~ (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~5~~² wherein the correlation graph correlates FEV1 (as a percentage of the predicted value) with ~~soluble E-cadherin~~^{sE-cadherin} concentration.

~~21.~~ (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~7~~³ wherein the correlation graph correlates FEV1 (as a percentage of the predicted value) with ~~soluble E-cadherin~~^{sE-cadherin} concentration.

~~22.~~ (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~8~~⁴ wherein the correlation graph correlates FEV1 (as a percentage of the predicted value) with ~~soluble E-cadherin~~^{sE-cadherin} concentration.

23. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9 wherein the correlation graph correlates FEV1 (as a percentage of the predicted value) with ~~soluble E-cadherin~~^{sE-cadherin} concentration.

24. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method according to claim 10 wherein the correlation graph correlates FEV1 (as a percentage of the predicted value) with ~~soluble E-cadherin~~^{sE-cadherin} concentration.

25. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method according to claim 11 wherein the correlation graph correlates FEV1 (as a percentage of the predicted value) with ~~soluble E-cadherin~~^{sE-cadherin} concentration.

26. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method according to claim 12 wherein the correlation graph correlates FEV1 (as a percentage of the predicted value) with ~~soluble E-cadherin~~^{sE-cadherin} concentration.